



US 151 Freeway Preservation Study

WIS 26 to US 41



July 2010

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WisDOT NE Region

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Mission statement:

To provide leadership in the development and operation of a safe and efficient transportation system.

Included in this issue:

- Variety of input gathered
- Alternatives development
- Public Information Meeting scheduled
- Project timeline
- Overview map of the study area

What is the US 151 Preservation Study?

The purpose of this study by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) Northeast Region is to develop a long-term plan for preserving the land needed to convert the portion of US 151 in Fond du Lac County between WIS 26 and US 41 to a freeway. The US 151 Freeway Preservation Study will result in a plan for the eventual removal of direct access onto US 151 that would take place over a period of many years. Existing direct access points (such as roads and driveways) would eventually be removed. Access will be at highway interchanges, and there will be a plan for new over or underpasses, and new local road connections. Ultimately, an official map would be created.

What is an official map?

An official map is a recorded document that depicts the location and amount of private land WisDOT will need to purchase in the future for highway right of way. Wisconsin State Statute 84.295 authorizes WisDOT to create such a map, but its use is restricted to freeways and expressways that will not be built in the near future. It is created only after an extensive study of many issues and coordination with landowners, local governments, agencies and other stakeholders. An official map cannot be used to purchase the needed right of way. That requires a plat of right of way which is created within a few years of the actual physical construction.

An official map gives landowners and local governments the ability to plan their futures and develop their land in ways that are compatible with the future highway improvements.

Public Information Meeting July 29, 2010

You are invited to attend a Public Information Meeting regarding the US 151 Freeway Preservation Study. The meeting will be held in an open-house format with a short presentation. Exhibits and materials displaying project information will be available for review.

When

July 29, 2010
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Presentation at 6:15 p.m.

Where

Lamartine Town Hall
N5269 Schaefer Drive
Oakfield, WI 53065



This is a photo of a recent agricultural focus group meeting

Variety of input helps WisDOT

WisDOT continues to work with local jurisdictions to develop a long-range plan for US 151 from Waupun to Fond du Lac. The plan will create a future vision for the roadway corridor to improve safety, mobility and access.

WisDOT began obtaining public input early in the study to ensure opinions were heard and integrated into the long-range plan. A successful round of focus groups earlier this year has generated valuable input that helped shape the direction of this study. Meetings were held with the agricultural community, WDNR, police, fire, EMS, and the Fond du Lac County Highway Department. Along with the public information and local official meetings, an extensive number of individual comments have been gathered that identified issues and opportunities along the corridor. Recurring themes such as field access, response time, farming operations and travel time continue to be communicated. Various alternatives have since been developed addressing these issues and will be open to public comment at the upcoming public information meeting on **July 29th, 2010**.

Several alternatives have been developed offering varying locations for a proposed interchange and overpass. New local road connections are also proposed that will maintain traffic flow.

Over the coming months, the alternatives offered for public review will address:

- ◆ Traffic and safety
- ◆ Access to homes and businesses
- ◆ Access for emergency services
- ◆ Economic development
- ◆ Farm operations
- ◆ Project costs

Study coordinates with emergency services and agricultural operations

The study team will continue to coordinate directly with all local fire, police, and EMS providers in the study area and with area school districts and their transportation service coordinators.

The final highway access plan will accommodate the delivery of emergency services and integrate school bus routes.

WisDOT recognizes that agricultural operations are an important part of the local and statewide economy. A survey and a focus group meeting relating to farming issues was held to add to our understanding of current and future operation needs. We will continue to gather and incorporate information to ensure that agricultural needs are accommodated and impacts minimized to the extent possible by the freeway conversion.

Cost-effective alternative access to local roads is not possible for all properties. Driveways that access individual agricultural fields or farm homes and generate little traffic may be allowed to remain for many years.

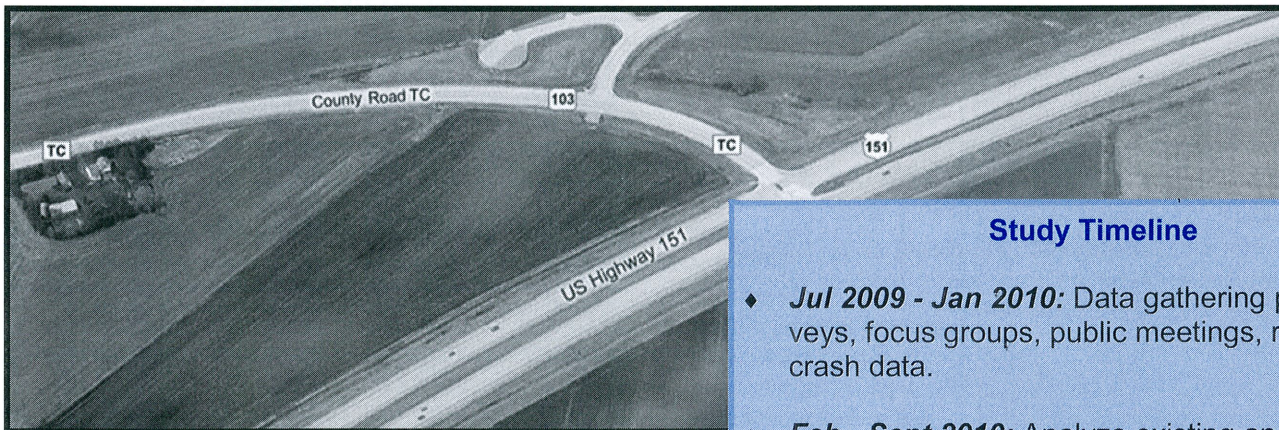
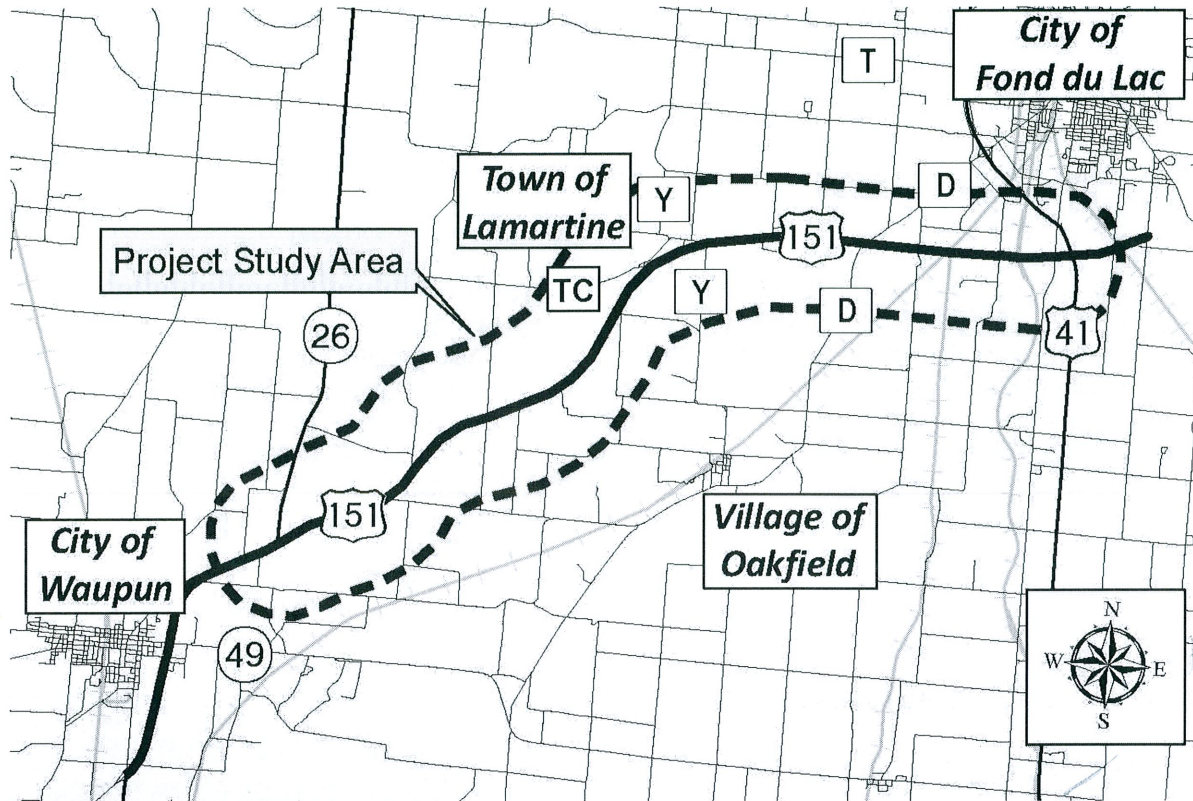
When would improvements be made?

The construction of major improvements would not begin for many years. The total freeway conversion may not be completed all at once.



Existing US 151 four lane roadway in Fond du Lac County

Corridor Overview Map



Ariel view of US 151/County TC intersection

Study Timeline

- ◆ **Jul 2009 - Jan 2010:** Data gathering phase - surveys, focus groups, public meetings, review of crash data.
- ◆ **Feb - Sept 2010:** Analyze existing and future conditions, develop alternatives and impacts, and present to public for input.
- ◆ **Oct 2010 - Mar 2011:** Develop Preferred Alternative and bring to local officials and the public for review. Follow up on issues as needed.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation



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Help determine the future of US 151

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) Northeast Region office is working with local jurisdictions and the public to develop a long-range plan for US 151 from Waupun to Fond du Lac. This plan will eventually convert the highway from an expressway with direct access and at-grade intersections to a freeway with controlled access. The current project will result in an official map identifying and preserving the needed right of way for this conversion.

No construction is scheduled at this time.

Please join us **Thursday evening, July 29th** and help develop a vision for this corridor.

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